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COUNTRY **Rumania**

SUBJECT **Military Readiness on the Danube**

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1. As of May 1954 and a little earlier, there has been a considerable movement of troops in the general direction of the Yugoslav-Rumanian frontier. This includes both Soviet and Rumanian troops, though there are no reports of troops from other satellite powers. Roads are now almost entirely under military orders. Any movement by peasants living in the region of the Yugoslav frontier is forbidden. Persons who wish to leave may be allowed to do so; but in that case they are not allowed to return.
2. While no Hungarian troops have been seen in Rumania as yet, another informant states that they are now held in a state of readiness and are prepared to cross the border into Rumania at any time.
3. Informants watching the Danube ports state that traffic along that river and between different river ports has, in the last month, become much heavier. The shipyards have increased their production of new units for the Danube and are also doing more repair work than hitherto. This has been noted at Braila, Turnu-Severin, and other ports.
4. There also seems to be a sudden rush of interest in bridging the Danube. What are described as "dismountable bridges on sloops" (presumably pontoon bridges) are being made ready at several points along the Danube. It has not been possible to learn the exact spots.
5. Interest is keen in getting the long-delayed Rumanian half of the Giurgiu-Russe Bridge built far enough to meet the Bulgarian half, which has been completed for some time. The work is again being hurried. Communist political circles in Rumania state definitely that the bridge will be ready for use well before the celebration planned for its official opening. This celebration is to take place 23 Aug 54. In view of certain earlier announcements, skepticism is perhaps justified; but the Rumanians seem in earnest this time.
6. The Soviet authorities are much concerned about using the great Danube bridge. The fact that foreign experts, brought in to assist, are now packing up to leave, indicates that the bridge will be finished this time.

The report suggests that the bridge real-  
ized for the use within the USA of the Intelligen-  
ce without the concurrence of the originating office.

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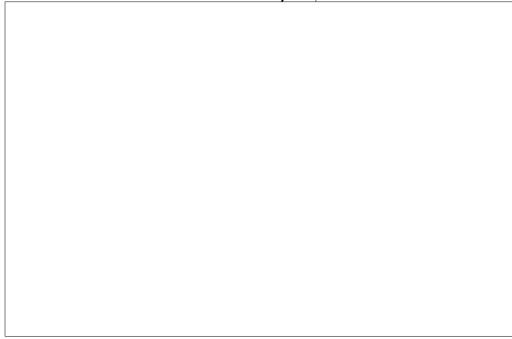
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